

ALLIES COMPLETING REPLY TO GERMANY

"Petit Parisien" Says Long
Document Sets Forth Their
Grievances.

DEFERS TO WILSON NOTE

Deputy Renaudel Opposes Off-
hand Rejection of Peace
Proposals.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—The Allies' answer to Germany's peace proposals is almost finished, according to the *Petit Parisien*. The paper says it is a rather long document and sets forth clearly both the "grievances of the Allies and the crushing responsibilities of the Central Empires."

The only reference to President Wilson's note at the public sitting of the Chamber of Deputies yesterday was made by Deputy Renaudel, who expressed the belief that it would compel Germany to tell plainly her war aims. Deputy Renaudel made his brief reference in announcing that the socialist party would vote for the appropriations for the first six months of 1917, which were subsequently passed. He said: "We vote for these appropriations because they are conditions of rational defense which we could not refuse without threatening the safety of the country. Twenty-nine months of war have allowed us to realize its full horror, but those who suffer aggression and who are struggling for their liberty remain firm in their determination to conquer."

For No Offhand Rejection.
"However, the enemy has spoken of negotiations, and whether as a ruse or a sincere appeal the result must be to awaken in all peoples the desire for the return of an organized and lasting peace. We therefore ask the Government not to decide negatively, without examination or without sound reasons, publicly proclaimed against the offers of the enemy, provided, clearly, that they are stated in such way as to hide no trap."

"Today the President of the United States of America asks the belligerents to make known their views as to the

object of the war. We do not wish to judge his intention. We only wish to see this—neutrals, guided by belief in a concern for justice and right, helping to obtain more light. Let our governments make known to the whole world that the Allied peoples, always faithful for peace and never afraid of war, are ready to accept any solution which, having repaid the injustice of force, shall organize the nations for the salvation of civilization and the free development of humanity."

Views in the Lobby.

In the lobby of the Chamber President Wilson's note was the subject of all the conversations among the Deputies. The views of the members of the Chamber, as thus given expression, are in substance as follows:

The French nation knows and appreciates the loyal friendship of the people of the United States in general, the two countries having a common ideal of justice and liberty. It is in defense of this ideal that France for nearly thirty months has gone through a war which she did everything to avoid, as it cannot be denied, in their view, that if in 1914 she took up arms it was because she was forced to do so to defend herself against aggression planned for more than forty years.

Until the last moment, in agreement with England and Russia, she made desperate endeavors to maintain peace. All the proposals made with that object in view were systematically rejected by the Central Empires, upon whom falls, it is contended, the entire responsibility for the present war.

France entered the struggle in spite of herself, acting by no spirit of conquest and no desire for domination, while her enemies, France considers, made no secret of their plans for rapine and devastation. The methods of warfare of the enemies of France, from which neutrals also have suffered directly or indirectly, are declared to have fortified the resolution of France to not that a repetition of such calamities shall be impossible in the future. It is to assure the incontestable enjoyment of her right to live that France is fighting and will continue to fight.

Renaudel's Article.

At Renaudel, the socialist leader, writing in *L'Humanité* regarding President Wilson's note, says:

"The note is the starting point of a new diplomacy whose merit is that it is public and submits, in consequence, to the judgments of the peoples themselves the care of their own destinies. Secret diplomacy must die. France and her allies will again serve human civilization in showing that they appreciate this new fact, as they will serve their own cause, by speaking out plainly."

Senator Henry Berenger, writing in the *Paris Herald*, says:

"Why didn't President Wilson make on July 30, 1914, the observations he submitted to Europe in December, 1914? Why didn't Wilson protest in August,

1914, against the violation of Belgium? Why does he wait until today to pose as a champion of small nations? Why didn't Wilson in August, 1914, defend the law of nations of which he is a professor, while in December, 1914, he offers himself as an arbitrator? "When one has said nothing and has done nothing in the face of a flagrant public crime one lacks authority to judge the causes of the catastrophe of which he proposes today to regulate the consequences."

Blow in the Chest.

Gustave Heive, editor of *La Victoire*, says:

"President Wilson has delivered us full in the chest the greatest blow, most dangerous for the morale of our people, revealed since Charleval. It comes in the twenty-ninth month of the war and when certain elements of our people, less endowed than others with fortitude, feel the strain of the war. The blow is the more dangerous for us than it is for any of our allies in the West, whose country has not been invaded as has ours for twenty-nine months."

Stephen Pichon, in the *Petit Journal*, says: "The note makes no distinction between the States who provoked the war and those upon whom it was forced. The belligerents, whoever they are, see themselves treated in the same manner by President Wilson. He does not remember either the violation of Belgian neutrality, the crimes of the submarine warfare or any of the monstrous acts which revolted the conscience of his compatriots and that of the civilized world: Germany, her victims, Belgians, Serbians or French. It is all the same. America can appreciate this singular conception as she pleases. As should be lacking in the first of our duties in not holding it up as an outrage to our honor and our dignity."

Clemenceau's Criticism.

Georges Clemenceau, former Premier, in his newspaper, *L'Humanité*, says:

"The moral side of the war has escaped President Wilson. He puts on the same footing all of the belligerents without asking for what reason each of them is fighting. Failing to take into consideration these imperishable he believes himself just when he speaks to all in the same terms. He has not felt that the ends of the war could not be understood in the same way by both sides, and consequently it would seem almost blasphemous to hear it said that the objects seem the same on both sides."

The *Journal* and the *Gazette* think President Wilson was influenced by fear of intensification of submarine warfare and consideration of the consequences of total interruption of sea traffic. If the Germans should carry out the project they are reported to have decided on and send 125 submarines to American waters.

GERMAN PRESS NOT PLEASED BY NOTE

Continued from First Page.

England and damage what he terms the Anglo-American cause.

"Wilson's step," says Count von Reventlow, "is nothing but an effort to save England from catastrophe."

"Vanishing Profits Acute."

The *Tagesische Rundschau* says sarcastically that President Wilson well understood how to control his peace proposals and "humanitarian fanaticism" while business was good in America, but that it was inevitable that some time America should enter the world war either as a combatant or a would-be peacemaker. The *Rundschau* asserts that Mr. Wilson should remember that America should enter the world war, made its quick ending impossible by restricting submarine warfare.

"President Wilson is actuated," says this paper, "by vanishing profits on one hand and the fear of submarine warfare on the other hand. He knows that if the German peace overtures were rejected it would spell sharper and intensified fighting at sea. The Wilson plan will meet more recognition with the Entente than with the Central Powers."

The *Reinische Westfälische Zeitung* accepts the Wilson note in a friendly manner, but declares that there must be no confusion between the German and American proposition since, it says, the Germans made their overtures in the consciousness of victory won, while America makes hers, according to Secretary Lansing, because she is on the verge of participation in the war. The paper disagrees decidedly with President Wilson's words regarding the war aims of all the combatants appearing the same. It reiterates, as do several other papers, that Germany is fighting for self preservation and not the protection of small nations.

The *Kölnische Zeitung* objects strenuously to stating Germany's peace terms to the United States if a conference with the Entente, as it regards probable, becomes impossible.

"Would Prolong War."

The *Cologne Gazette* says: "If Dr. Wilson tries to bring about the publication of the conditions upon which the two groups are inclined to make peace he will aggravate instead of smoothing over the contrasts and only prolong the war. He would only be wanting what Lloyd George demanded in his speech, and would be playing the British game."

The *Cologne Volks-Zeitung* says: "President Wilson's remark that his step is not prompted by the peace offer of the Central Powers shows that he has for a

long time contemplated mediation for peace. What this peace would be we can easily imagine after Dr. Wilson's attitude toward this war. We must decline from the outset the participation of a neutral State, namely, the United States, as a responsible party in the proposed conference."

The evening edition of the *Cologne Volks-Zeitung* says:

"The game was a preconcerted one. America has put her money in Entente business, and therefore America must try in the interest of her debtors to obtain the best possible conditions so that they may be able later to fulfil their financial obligations toward the United States. For these reasons the United States is out of the question as an impartial mediator, not considering President Wilson, who at every opportunity has shown by his deeds his weakness for England and who in the present note even goes so far as to threaten war, which, considering the whole affair, can only be directed against Germany."

"Only Answer Flat Refusal."

The *Rheinische Westfälische Zeitung* after an attack on President Wilson, says: "We are fighting for nothing less

than the price of victory. Our enemies cannot snatch it from us, and therefore Mr. Wilson is to do it, and he even openly threatens us with war. There can be only one answer: namely, a flat refusal on the part of Germany and her allies. We offered peace; we do not want mediation, especially not from America, which has brought untold suffering upon our people."

Lively Scenes on Bourse.

The Berlin Bourse followed the example of the New York Stock Exchange on the receipt of the news of President Wilson's note and "war babies" were offered with unaccustomed freedom. Values fell, while the so-called peace stocks were strengthened all along the line.

American exchange, which last week reached the unprecedented highwater mark of 574, and which had fallen gradually to 562 as German exchange on New York rose, fell a solid ten points. Shipping stocks were particularly lively and strong, followed closely by potash, cement and bank stocks.

Japanese, Canadian, American and Swiss paper was offered, but found no buyers, while Russian consols had a good market.

TEUTONS OVERRUN WHOLE DOBRUDJA

Continued from First Page.

visible against snow advanced simultaneously toward our trenches. Being met by our rifle and machine gun fire they were driven back to their intrenchment. On the rest of the front there were reconnaissances by our scouts and infantry fire.

A delayed Bulgarian statement says:

In the Dobrudja our progress continues. The enemy is opposing resistance on the front, comprising Badagah, Lake Donistepo, Alibekioy and Turkora. Our cavalry routed the Third Cossack Division, which had arrived December 17 in Dobrudja. The Cossacks suffered heavy losses, among the dead being Col. Yonodoff.

Russians Fall Back.

BERLIN (by wireless), Dec. 23.—"The

Teutonic operations in the Dobrudja are developing further," writes the Overseas News Agency's military critic. "The Russians have been repeatedly defeated, abandoning two fortified positions and then offering resistance on another line in order to cover a retreat on the road to Tulcha, Isakcha and Matchin."

"The defensive line is now resting on the hills in the northern extremity of the Dobrudja only twenty kilometers from Tulcha and Isakcha. The Third Cossack Division, which retired on December 13, was completely defeated by the Bulgarians on December 19, the Russians suffering heavy losses."

"Likewise in eastern Wallachia the Russians and Rumanians are trying to cover the retreat of the remnants of the defeated armies and Rumanian refugees across the line of the Sereth by an effort to hold up the advance of the Central Powers at a point south of Rimnik Sarat. This effort is also intended to cover the flank of the Russo-Rumanian bodies fighting in the Moldavian Carpathians. A Russo-Rumanian offensive from this position is not considered probable."

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\$2.75, \$4.50 & \$5.75 per pair

A personal selection is recommended

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Women's Tailored Suits FOR STREET AND SPORTS WEAR

will be placed on sale, commencing Tuesday,
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\$12.50, \$18.50, \$28.50 & \$38.00

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In several attractive varieties, will be placed on sale on Tuesday, arranged in lengths suitable for Women's Dresses and Skirts and Children's Frocks.

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At the same time a number of

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Herebefore 25.00 to 98.50
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59 Suits of Wool Velour
Velvet or fur trimmed.
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45 Fur Trimmed Suits and Gabardines
Lined throughout.
Herebefore 32.50 to 49.50 25.00

26 Suits of Wool Velour
And Broadcloths. Fur trimmed.
Herebefore 45.00 to 55.00 35.00

341 Georgette Blouses
In the season's favored shades.
Herebefore 6.95 to 15.00
159 at 4.90 100 at 6.95 82 at 9.75

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